



THE GOOD NEWS

The Good News is published twice
each month by the
First Presbyterian Church
of Commerce, Texas.

November, 2016

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Worship With Us on Sunday!

"A Christian Community of Faith"

**9:45 a.m. Sunday School
for all ages**

10:50 a.m. Sunday Worship

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A Message From the Pastor



Dear FPC family and friends,

Maybe you have noticed lately we have added a time in our worship for a "Minute for Mission" before the offering. A Minute for Mission is a time when we learn about different missions, and groups that the congregation of FPCC, or the wider church (PC USA) hosts or participates in.

It is a time to learn not only how FPCC does this but how they can be an opportunity for you to participate in the life and mission of both our church and the national church. This idea was brought forth by the session during their retreat last year. It is a way to learn and stimulate ideas and areas where a person can tithe, not only financially, but also through their time and talents—which is just as important as the financial part of the operation of a church.

So far we have heard from the Presbyterian Women (by Toni Deaton), the Commerce Community Food Pantry (by Jane Cox), and The Little Library/Christian Education Intergenerational Sunday School this past Sunday (By Bettina Zvanut).

If you would like to know more about any of these missions or organizations, please don't hesitate to ask the presenters or me. If you have an idea or request for a Minute for Mission, and especially if you would like to present your idea please do not hesitate to let me know!

(Continued on page 5)



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

By Toni Deaton

FPC PW Moderator

Circle Meeting

PW Circle will meet on Monday, Nov. 14, at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Leader for the lesson is Brenda and hostess is Bettina. All women are invited to attend. The annual Thank Offering will be received.

Information on the 2016 PW Thank Offering

Presbyterian women have been making grants to creative ministries through the **Thank Offering** since 1888. During this time Presbyterian women have granted support to thousands of ministries worldwide, and raised millions of dollars for mission. In 2015, the Thank Offering supported 22 projects chosen for grants totaling \$510,088. Fourteen of the projects are ministries that serve people in the U.S. Eight of the projects are international. More than 40 percent of the funded projects are health ministries.

Listed below are two of the fourteen USA ministries that will receive grant money in 2016:

- National: Synod of the Covenant: **“Family to Family Furniture Bank” – Bed Project, Marysville, Ohio**

This project will help families who face hardship or emergency situations receive furniture, including beds, to help them return to independent lives.

- National: Synod of Lakes and Prairies: **“Exploit No More” – RISE Restoration Center, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.**

“Exploit No More” is a Christian organization dedicated to ending child sex trafficking in the Greater Milwaukee area.

There are 12 more national projects receiving grants and 8 international projects receiving grants including one sponsored by a church in Grace Presbytery: First of Fort Worth, which is listed here.

- **“Living Water International”**

This grant will be used to purchase a drill rig for use in Haiti, where at least 36 percent of the population lacks access to safe water. Living Water International (LWI) is the implementing partner for

this project. The resident LWI team leader will train and work with local Haitians to drill in communities that have requested a well.

*“How precious is your steadfast love, O God!
All people may take refuge in the shadow of
your wings.” Psalm 36:7*

(If you would like to participate in the Thank Offering, you may give your donation to **Brenda Estes**, PW Treasurer, any time during the month of November.)

Progressive Dinner a Big Hit

Twenty-eight women attended the PW Progressive Dinner on Friday, Oct. 21, and it was deemed a huge success! Thanks go to all the hostesses and to those who volunteered their homes for the three courses. A special thank-you goes to **Dr. Rick Selvaggi and David Zvanut** who manned the grill for the main course. David also provided pre-dinner music on a "grand" scale!

Appetizer hostesses were **Dean Calvert, Jane Cox, Joyce Isaacs and Helon Razniak**. Main-course hostesses were **Janet Duncan, Brenda Estes, Sherry Johnson, Carolyn McFarland, Tina Selvaggi and Bettina Zvanut**. Dessert hostesses were **Toni Deaton, Nancy Green and Nancy McFarland**.

Thanks, also, to all those who attended. It was a fun evening.

Report on Fall Gathering

The Grace Presbytery PW Fall Gathering was held on Saturday, October 15, at Flower Mound PC, Flower Mound. Rev. Angie Mabry-Nauta, Development Officer for Presbyterian Pan American School, was the keynote speaker. A total of 64 women attended and represented 18 churches in our presbytery. An offering, totaling \$800.00, was received for missions. Half of the offering went to Presbyterian Pan Am School; the other half was divided between the Denton County Friends of the Family and P-CHAS (Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services).

Representing our church at the meeting were **Bettina Zvanut, Brenda Estes, Martha Clevenger, and Toni Deaton**.

At the Gathering, Grace Presbytery PW officers were installed, including two from our church. **Bettina** was installed as Vice Moderator for Programs, and **Toni** was installed as Moderator.

In Our Prayers at First Presbyterian

Our Troops	Gordon Hunter	Jace Carrington
Bruce Campbell	Sara Grace Pullen	Melba Blount
Amy Lopez	Billy Marshall	Joe Yeakley
John Paul Rhodes	Grace Byrd	Gayle Shumate
Gladys Gray	Pat Skauge	Mildred Miller
Amanda Swanson	Gaye Furry	Preston Helton
Loretta Kibler	Joan Walvoord	Brad Rollins
Donald R. Smith	Catherine King	Robertson
Deryl McKenzie		

If you have anyone you would like to add to the Prayer List, please contact the church office.

PC(USA) Stated Clerk to Lead Live-streamed Reformation Worship Service on Nov. 2

“Write the Vision—Reclaim the Call” is the theme of a church-wide Reformation worship service being led by the **Reverend Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II**, on Nov. 2 at the Presbyterian Center and live-streamed to the public.

“This is an opportunity in this Reformation season to call for a reform within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A),” said Nelson, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly. “It is my hope that we, as a denomination, can embrace a spiritual reformation that breaks down the walls that separate us within the national church and those that divide us from the communities where God has placed us.”

Worship will begin at 10:45 a.m. (Eastern Time) and can be viewed live at oga.pcusa.org. A video of the service also will be posted for later viewing.

The service coincides with Reformation Sunday, which is Oct. 30. Also significant is the fact that 2017 marks the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, which is being celebrated in various ways and across denominations.

Nelson will draw from scriptures in Habakkuk and Luke as he calls the church to proclaim a new vision through prayer, reconciliation, and recommitment to Jesus Christ. The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be served during the worship service. Congregations are encouraged to consider meeting in a common space to view the worship service and discuss possibilities for the future of their ministries. The worship service will be held in the chapel of the PC (USA) national headquarters (100 Witherspoon Street, Louisville, Kentucky).

The liturgy will be available at oga.pcusa.org for viewing or download.

Do You Shop at Braums?

If you shop at Braums or you know of someone who does, you can help the Commerce Food Pantry by saving those large brown paper shopping bags with handles.

At your convenience, drop them by the church office. The food pantry has found these bags to be very useful when they give out food each week.



Got a picture for *The Good News* that you would like to share?

Email it to fpc-commerce@embarqmail.com

FPC Is Online!

www.facebook.com/fpccommerce

www.facebook.com/group/fpccommerce

<https://twitter.com/fpccommerce>

www.fpc-commerce.com





Sunday School News

Students in **Bettina Zvanut's** Sunday school class have been slowly learning the ISBN and Dewey Decimal library codes in order to incorporate new books that have been donated to the Church library collection. Using an old typewriter, they are making new cards listing the books by the authors. They are also gluing cards into the books for use in checkout.

Additionally, the students are working on a new design for a solar oven. This time they are trying a new idea using a Styrofoam cooler incorporated into the design to see if meat can be cooked successfully in the solar oven.

In their continuing Bible study on the book of *Judges*, the students have learned about Ehud, Deborah, Gideon and Samson.

Students in this class include **Mason Howard, Matthew McFarland and Lily Selvaggi.**

Community News



Helping Those Experiencing Holiday Sadness

GriefShare: Surviving the Holidays, a one-night seminar for those who are grieving the death of a family member or friend, will be presented on Monday night, Nov. 7, from 5:45- 8 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of First Baptist Church in Commerce. The local GriefShare group sponsored by FBC Commerce will be hosting the event for the entire region.



The seminar features video interviews with counselors, grief experts, and other people who have experienced the holidays after their loved one's death and who offer practical suggestions and reassurance. Those who attend will receive a Survival Guide filled with practical tips and

encouragement for surviving the holiday season. There is no charge to attend.

For more information, see www.GriefShare.org/holidays, or call 903-886-8600 or 214-729-7525.

Register for Run and Help the Food Pantry

The annual Maloy Road Turkey Trot 5K - Walk or Run will once again be held this year on Thanksgiving (Nov. 24) morning at 9 a.m. The fundraiser for the Commerce Food Bank is organized by **Celeste Prather**, daughter-in-law of food pantry board member **Neva Young**.



Contact Prather at 903-450-5579 (or by email at celesteprather@hotmail.com) by Nov. 11 to sign up and for more information. The \$20 registration fee includes a long-sleeve t-shirt.

You can also follow *5th Annual Maloy Road Turkey Trot* on Facebook.

Help Missions: Buy Christmas Greenery

The First United Methodist Church in Commerce is helping its missions outreach with the sale of fresh wreaths and garlands for Christmas. Deadline to order is noon on Monday, Nov. 7.

An order sheet with pictures is on the FPC bulletin board by the kitchen. Pick-up will be at FUMC from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Dec. 3 at its Merry Marketplace & Lunch for Missions event.



November Hymn of the Month

Page 654 — *In the Lord I'll be Ever Thankful*



Daylight Savings Time Ends Nov. 6
Remember to turn your clocks back!



Newsmakers

FPC's **Micah Krajca** will be making some news on Nov. 13, when he gives his Junior Recital. If you can, come hear his wonderful voice in Recital Hall on the TAMUC campus at 3 p.m.



Congratulations to **Kayla Keahey and Dillon Spreen**, who announced their engagement in mid-October. Kayla is the daughter of **Stephanie and Mark Keahey** and the granddaughter of FPC's **Neal and Odeana Stewart**.



The **Commerce Food Pantry** and FPC's **Isabel Davis** made news recently when The East Texan, TAMUC's student newspaper, published a nice story published Oct. 13 about the good being done by the food pantry.

Among the facts Isabel related about the food pantry was a non-fact, rather, a dream that is slowing being pursued. It is the pantry's long term goal for a new location that would allow the food pantry to better serve its clients.

"We would be able to serve the people better

with more space and be able to have refrigerators and freezer to keep perishable food," Isabell said. "Right now, we're limited to canned and non-perishable items except once a month we've been getting fresh produce from FISH in Greenville, but we have to pick it up and dispense it all in the same day. That limits the amount we can give out and limits the amount of families that can benefit from that."

Katlynn Rasco meets the TAMUC mascot on Halloween.



Don't Forget Food Pantry Items

The Commerce Food Pantry serves many families in need each week. Donations are a major source of its ability to help these people. Remember to help out the food pantry with a donation of food each Sunday.

1st Sunday—Peanut butter

2nd Sunday—Bag of pinto beans and/or rice

3rd Sunday—Can of chili or beef stew

4th Sunday—Can of tuna, spam, or chicken

5th Sunday—Can of fruit: peaches or fruit cocktail



Please note there are some slight changes in the requested donation items to emphasize protein.

A Message From the Pastor *(Continued from page 1)*

FPC Commerce does so much ministry inside and outside the walls of the physical building that not everyone knows about and we are excited (and hope you are too) to share! We are hoping to continue to inspire the pattern of giving and sharing God's light, love, and grace to not only with our church family but also to the surrounding community.

Grace and peace be with you all

Rev. Krista Rasco

First Presbyterian Church
Staff, Session, and Committees

Staff

Pastor.....Rev. Krista Rasco
 Clerk of Session.....Wally Tucker
 Music Director.....Kim Nolen Wheelock
 Pianist.....David Vergara
 Nursery AttendantCarolyn McFarland
 SecretaryRoger McKenzie

Session Members

2016

2017

2018

Ric Estes	Walter Davis	Martha Clevenger
Rick Selvaggi	Helon Razniak	Jordan Conner
Scott Stewart	Petra Strassberg	Wally Tucker
		Bettina Zvanut

Session Committees

Worship:

Chair.....Helon Razniak
 Co-Chair.....Martha Clevenger

Christian Education:

Chair.....Walt Davis
 Co-Chair.....Jordan Conner

Membership and Pastoral Care:

Chair.....Ric Estes
 Co-Chair.....Bettina Zvanut

Mission/Evangelism:

Chair.....Bettina Zvanut
 Co-Chair.....Petra Strassberg

Buildings and Grounds:

Chair.....Scott Stewart
 Co-Chairs.....Rick Selvaggi
Wendell Linton

Stewardship and Finance:

Chair.....Jordan Conner
 Co-chair.....Scott Stewart

Personnel:

Chair.....Wally Tucker
 Co-Chairs.....Brenda Estes
Keith McFarland

Upcoming Bible Readings

This Sunday (Nov. 6) is the
 25th Sunday After Pentecost.

It is also Communion Sunday and All Saints Sunday.

Old Testament: Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18 *Visions of the
 Four Beasts / Daniel's Visions Interpreted*

Psalter: Psalm 149 *Praise for Gods Goodness
 to Israel*

Epistle: Ephesians 1:11-23 *Spiritual Blessings in
 Christ / Paul's Prayer*

Gospel: (sermon focus): Luke 6:20-31 *Blessings
 and Woes*

Next Sunday (Nov. 13) is the
 26th Sunday After Pentecost

We will have a guest preacher.

Old Testament: Isaiah 65:17-25 *The Rightousness
 of God's Judgment*

Old Testament: Isaiah 12 *Thanksgiving and Praise*

Gospel: Luke 21:5-19 *The Destruction of the
 Temple Foretold / Signs and Persecutions*

Epistle: (sermon focus) 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13
Warning against Idleness



***We would
 like to use them!***

Thanks to all those who help lead worship, our elders and committee members who work to improve FPC, and volunteers who make our events successful.

If you would like to fill a larger role in the life of FPC, please contact Rev. Rasco or someone you see working hard for FPC.



If you can't tell, we will let you in on a not-so-secret reality. Tina, Rick and Lily Selvaggi LOVE Halloween!

November Worship Leaders

November 6

Host Elder:..... Jordan Conner
Head Usher:..... Ric Estes
Candle Lighter: Evie Conner
Liturgist: Walt Davis
Elements: Martha Clevenger

November 13

Head Usher:..... Scott Stewart
Candle Lighter: Matti Ritchie
Liturgist: Barbara Tucker

November 20

Head Usher:..... Wendell Linton
Candle Lighter: Jack Conner
Liturgist: Neal Stewart

November 27

Head Usher:..... Monty Howard
Candle Lighter: Sally Walker
Liturgist: Susan Reeves

November Dates to Remember

Happy Birthday to:

- 8 - Neal Stewart
- 10 - Madison Avery Tucker
- 14 - Joane Walvoord
- 14 - Zane Belcher
- 17 - Alexander Lucas Towne
- 19 - Eric McIntier
- 20 - Beverly Housewright
- 28 - Amy McIntier

Happy Anniversary to:

- 14 – Odeana & Neal Stewart
- 18 – Bettina & David Zvanut
- 22 – Kim and Mark Fake

Is our birthday and anniversary information up-to-date? Report any errors, please.

November Calendar

Worship Schedule

- 6 Communion Sunday / All Saints Sunday
Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Sermon focus on Luke 6:20-31
- 13 Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Sermon focus on 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13
- 20 Christ the King Sunday / Reign of Christ Sunday
Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Sermon focus on Luke 23:33-43
- 27 First Sunday of Advent / Hanging of the Greens
Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Sermon focus on Matthew 24:36-44

Other November events

- 9 Wednesday, 6 p.m.—Session meeting
- 13 Sunday, 3-9 p.m.—Tau Sigma Theta event in Fellowship Hall
- 14 Monday, 10 a.m.—PW Circle meeting
- 22 Tuesday, 5 p.m.—Food Pantry meeting
- 24-25 Thursday, Friday—FPC will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday.
- 30 Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.—Christian Education meeting

Something Missing?

Did we leave out something? Please call the church office at least two weeks before your church-related event and have it put on the church calendar.

Got Good News?

If you have a submission (church or community news, or news that involves FPC, an event notice, pictures, a blessing, etc.) for *The Good News*, please email it to us at fpc-commerce@embarqmail.com. We only publish twice a month, so please bear in mind our deadlines and send submissions in early. We reserve the right to edit.

Deadlines: Our next two editions are tentatively scheduled for Nov. 16, and Dec. 1. The deadline for getting items to us to make those editions is Monday, Nov. 14, and Monday, Nov. 28.

How to Make a Difference This Christmas

Shopping begins in December for the annual Hunt County Clothe-A-Child campaign. The highly successful event has been providing new clothing to needy children since 1989.

Belinda Miller, counselor at Commerce Elementary School, has sent out letters requesting support to provide each child in need with \$50 worth of new clothing purchased at the local Wal-Mart store. Last year, 895 children were helped in Hunt County, including all 212 children in Commerce.

If you would like to help, send your tax-deductible donation to: Hunt County Clothe-A-Child, Belinda Miller, Commerce Elementary School, 3315 Washington, Commerce, Texas 75428. You can also phone her at Commerce Elementary School, 903-886-3757, if you would like to help shop for the children.



The Commerce Food Pantry will be closed on Thanksgiving Day. It will resume operation on Thursday, Dec. 1.

Home Alone for the Holidays?

Petra Strassberg is inviting anyone who will be by themselves on Thanksgiving Day and/or Christmas Day to have dinner at her house on those holidays. Dinner will be from 12-2 pm on Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.



Please contact Petra at 903 274-9444 or at petrakirsten1@gmail.com.

Another Thanksgiving Alternative

The First United Methodist Church in Commerce invites the community to its annual Thanksgiving Day dinner starting at noon. The church is located at 1709 State Hwy. 50 across from the campus of Texas A&M Commerce University.

FPC's Janet Duncan (second from the left, below) and her Duncan Insurance employees were dressed like some of the candies being given out during Halloween on the Square festivities.

